

BRASSOLINAE (LEP.: SATYRIDAE) IN BRITAIN AND EUROPE

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IN AN earlier article (Bristow, 1986), I listed five records of the occurrence of the Neotropical brassoline *Opsiphanes tamarindi* in Britain. Feedback from that paper and further literature research extends the number of specimens of *tamarindi* in both Britain and Holland as well as recording the presence of *O. cassiae* in Britain and *Caligo* sp. in Britain and Holland. Surprisingly, none of these occurrences is mentioned in Emmet and Heath (1989), even though it was John Heath who brought the Ramsey Market specimen of *O. tamarindi* to me for identification. The inclusion of these rare adventives would bring the total number of butterflies recorded in Britain to 114.

In Britain, additional records of *tamarindi* are from Bridlington (Winter, 1985 and pers. comm.) in May 1984, and Leicester (Lott, 1986) in February 1984. Winter's specimen, found as an adult in a banana warehouse, is reputed to come from the Windward Isles, but this is not possible as no brassolinid is known from those islands (Riley, 1975). As stated in my earlier paper, *O. tamarindi* is not known from further east than western Venezuela. Lott's specimen, discovered as an adult male in a greengrocer's shop, is from Colombia. It most probably belongs to the nominate race.

A second Dutch specimen of *O. tamarindi*, a female, was found in Amsterdam in October 1963 (B.J. Lempke, pers. comm.). It had been imported with bananas from Ecuador. Photographs kindly supplied by Dr Lempke confirm that it is subspecies *corrosus* Stichel.

In London, two specimens of *Opsiphanes cassiae* were bred from pupae found in banana crates from Brazil in 1937 (Tulloch, 1939). Unfortunately, the whereabouts of these specimens has not been traced and their identity has not been confirmed. They were originally in the Stepney Borough Museum. However, in December 1953, the natural history collections were sold. All the insects reputedly passed to the London Hospital Medical College (H. Watton, pers. comm.), but Mr D. Nunn of that college informs me that only a few insects of medical importance were acquired by them. Assuming that these specimens did originate in Brazil, then it is fairly certain that they are *O. cassiae*, as *tamarindi*, a close relative, does not occur there. Other *Opsiphanes* species from Brazil do not feed on banana.

Another banana-feeding brassoline genus that has been found in Britain is *Caligo*. In fact, this is the earliest brassoline to have been recorded in this country. It was found as an adult, presumably having travelled as a pupa, amongst bananas at Aspley near Huddersfield (Mosley, 1926). The bananas are reported to have come from Jamaica. This again is most unlikely, because apart from one dubious record of *Caligo* on that island, Brown and Heineman (1972) have no record of any brassoline on Jamaica.

Luckily this specimen still survives and through the courtesy of Ms D. Harding of the Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield, I have photographs of it set in "life" position. Unfortunately, specific determination is not easy from the photographs, and consequently its country of origin is difficult to narrow down.

In Holland, a specimen of *C. memnon* was found at Rotterdam on 26th January 1977 (Boot, 1978).

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Eupithecia valerianata Hb. and *Eupithecia pygmaeata* Hb. (Lep.: Geometridae) in Scotland

On July 12th 1984 I found larvae of *Eupithecia valerianata* commonly near New Galloway in Kirkcudbrightshire, feeding upon *Valeriana officinalis*, and I bred a short series of imagines which emerged the following year.

On June 10th 1986 near Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, I came across a meadow in which flourished a number of large patches of chickweed (*Cerastium* sp.) over which in bright sunshine *Eupithecia pygmaeata* were flying. For the relevant county I am unable to find previous records for these two species.— B.K. WEST, 36 Briars Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.